

INSIGHTS

August 2011

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

	United States	SC
Labor Force	153,594,000	2,163,803
Employed	139,627,000	1,924,633
Unemployed	13,967,000	239,170
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	11.1%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 941.89	\$ 700.52
Avg. Weekly Hours	41.1	42.2
Avg. Weekly Wages	\$ 23.43	\$ 16.60

Job Growth (Year over Year)

	% Change
Anderson MSA	4.44%
Charleston MSA	1.33%
Florence MSA	2.09%
Myrtle Beach MSA	5.40%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	2011	2010
U.S. Participation Rate	64.0%	64.7%
S.C. Participation Rate	60.7%	61.1%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2011	2010
U.S. Population Ratio	58.2%	58.5%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.0%	54.4%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	3.8%
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In the News

The Community Profile Report has been developed to provide real-time statistics on South Carolina's workforce.



View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

South Carolina Employment Trends

Even with a 1,700 decrease in total nonfarm employment from July to August 2011, Manufacturing in South Carolina posted its seventh consecutive monthly gain in employment since January 2011. Manufacturing went up 800 from a month ago and increased 11,000 when compared to a year ago. South Carolina has led the southeastern region in Manufacturing job growth (from July 2010 to July 2011), nearly doubling the increase posted by Kentucky, the state with the next highest growth.

Within the Manufacturing sector, Durable Goods saw a positive employment increase from last month. Contributing to the Durable Goods' gain was Primary Metal and Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing (+200) and Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (+200).

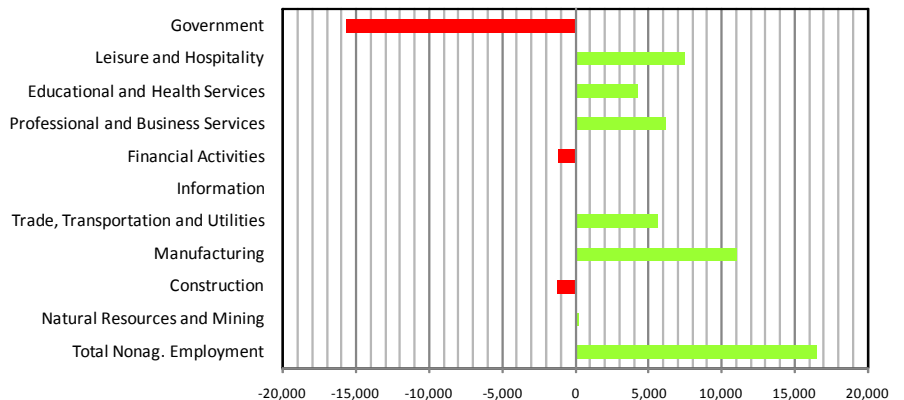
The total jobs count was 16,500 higher than August 2010: the increase in Durable Goods accounted for roughly 50% of the increase. Private employers added 32,200 jobs. The 12-month growth was fueled mainly by Manufacturing, Leisure and Hospitality, and Professional and Business Services sectors.

There were also encouraging gains in several other major industry sectors: Professional and Business Services (+1,200), Education and Health Services (+500), and Government (+1,400). Job growth in these industry sectors helped minimize this month's decline in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities and Leisure and Hospitality.

Of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Greenville (+2,400), Spartanburg (+2,400), Sumter (+900) and Anderson (+600) showed monthly job gains. Charleston (-1,500), and Myrtle Beach (-1,100) noted declines as the summer tourism season peaked earlier in July. Columbia reported no change and Florence (-100) showed a small decrease.

The state's average weekly manufacturing hours increased by 0.3 hours over the past year to approximately 42.2 hours.

South Carolina Job Changes by Industry August 2010 - August 2011



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2010 benchmark.

Employment
492



Unemployment
3,347



Unemployment
Rate 0.2%



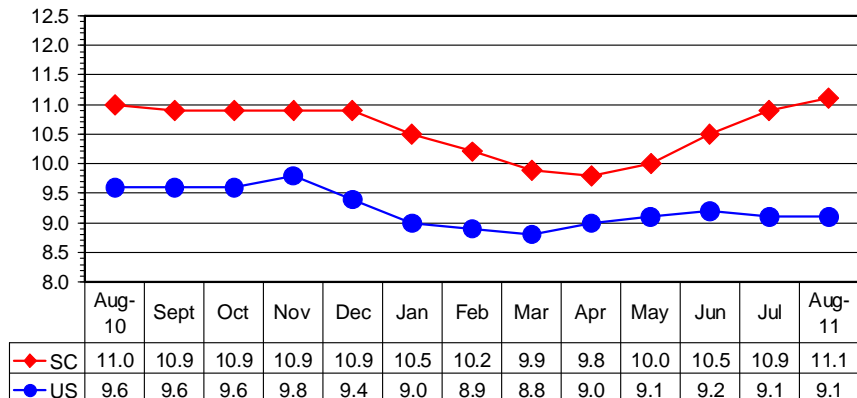
The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 10.9% in July to 11.1% in August. The state's labor force increased (+2,855) for the fourth consecutive month, with the total labor force estimated at 2,163,803. There were 1,924,633 employed persons in August, down slightly from the previous month. Since a year ago, the number of employed increased 1,855. Private sector and goods-producing industries provided most of the opportunity for this increase in the past 12 months.

Approximately 239,000 people were unemployed in the state – an increase of about 2,500 compared to a year ago. Over the past several months, employment levels have continued to decrease, while unemployment levels have increased, thus driving the unemployment rate higher.

As fall approaches, schools will be well underway and business retailers will be finalizing plans for the end-of-year holiday season. Depending on consumer confidence, some temporary retail hiring may take place in the fourth quarter. Nationally, many economic measurements continue to show increasing "challenges" for the nation's economy. It remains to be seen how these challenges may impact South Carolina.

Unemployment Rate Jumps

U.S. and S.C. Unemployment Rates
August 2010 through August 2011



Regional Changes in Unemployment Rates

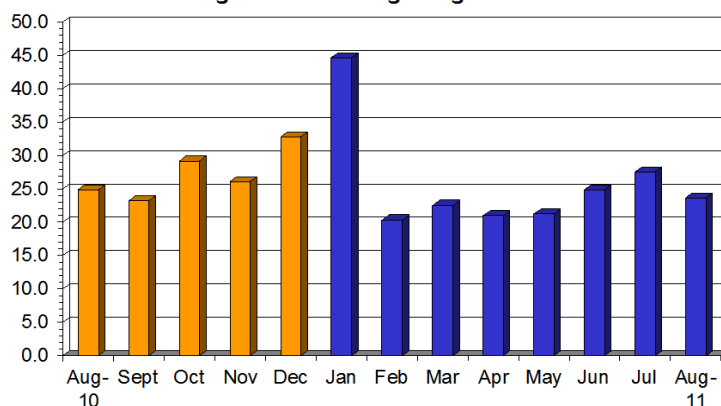
States	Aug 2011	July 2011	% Change	Aug 2010	% Change
South Carolina	11.1	10.9	0.2	11.0	0.1
Florida	10.7	10.7	0.0	11.6	-0.9
North Carolina	10.4	10.1	0.3	10.1	0.3
Georgia	10.2	10.1	0.1	10.2	0.0

August Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's August Initial Claims showed a decrease of 3,851 from the previous month, continuing a positive trend. The Unemployment Insurance Benefits Paid had a significant decline from a year ago—dropping \$10,499,265.

In addition to fewer people applying for and receiving benefits, there was a noteworthy dip in the Average Duration of Benefits Paid from a high of 18.0 weeks a year ago to 15.6 weeks. The number of people who exhausted their benefits fell by 2,715 from a year ago.

S.C. Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims *
August 2010 through August 2011



SC Unemployment Activities

Total Initial Claims*	23,684
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$ 37,707,427
UI Benefits Exhausted	5,495
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	15.6
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$ 236.41

*All Programs

August Unemployment Rates by County

State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	13.4
California	12.1
Michigan	11.2
D.C.	11.1
South Carolina	11.1
Florida	10.7
Rhode Island	10.6
North Carolina	10.4
Mississippi	10.3
Georgia	10.2
Alabama	9.9
Illinois	9.9
Tennessee	9.7
Oregon	9.6
Kentucky	9.5
New Jersey	9.4
Arizona	9.3
Washington	9.3
Idaho	9.2
Ohio	9.1
Connecticut	9.0
Missouri	8.8
Indiana	8.7
Colorado	8.5
Texas	8.5
Arkansas	8.3
Pennsylvania	8.2
Delaware	8.1
West Virginia	8.1
New York	8.0
Wisconsin	7.9
Montana	7.8
Alaska	7.7
Maine	7.6
Utah	7.6
Massachusetts	7.4
Maryland	7.3
Louisiana	7.2
Minnesota	7.2
Kansas	6.7
New Mexico	6.6
Virginia	6.3
Hawaii	6.2
Iowa	6.1
Vermont	5.9
Wyoming	5.8
Oklahoma	5.6
New Hampshire	5.3
South Dakota	4.7
Nebraska	4.2
North Dakota	3.5

In the last month, 10 counties registered rate increases; 10 counties had no change; and the rate in 26 counties declined. Calhoun (-1.8%) and Orangeburg (-1.3%) counties had the largest decline in the unemployment rate. The largest increases were noted in Edgefield and Saluda counties.

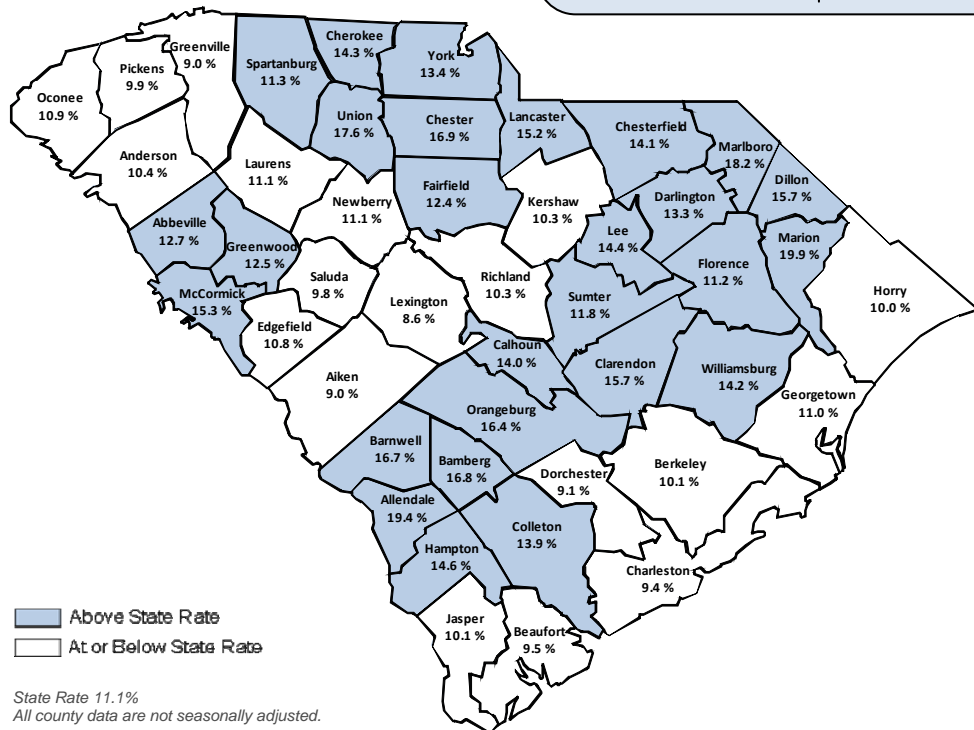
The last 12 months saw York and Marlboro counties reporting the largest rate declines, while Horry, Anderson, and Greenville counties had the largest number of people finding work.

Highest County Unemployment Rate

Marion	19.9%
Allendale	19.4%
Marlboro	18.2%
Union	17.6%
Chester	16.9%

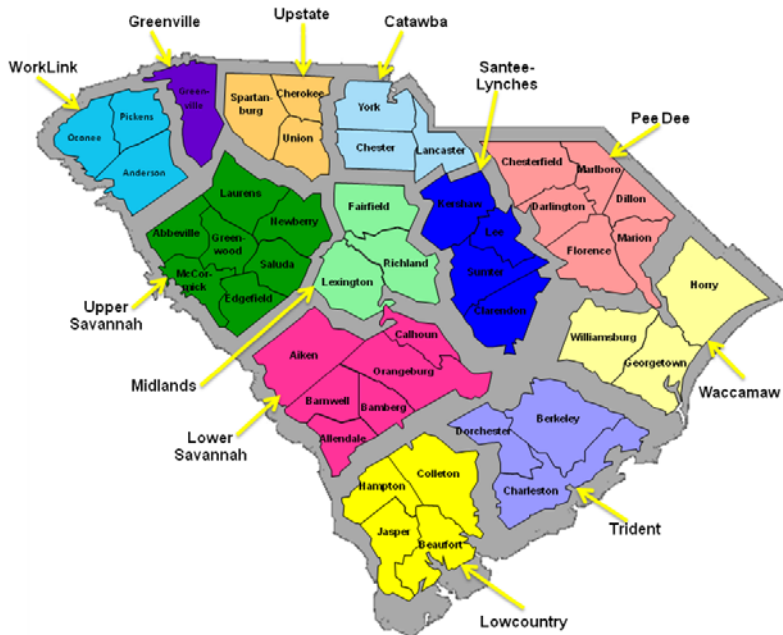
Lowest County Unemployment Rate

Charleston	9.4%
Dorchester	9.1%
Aiken	9.0%
Greenville	9.0%
Lexington	8.6%



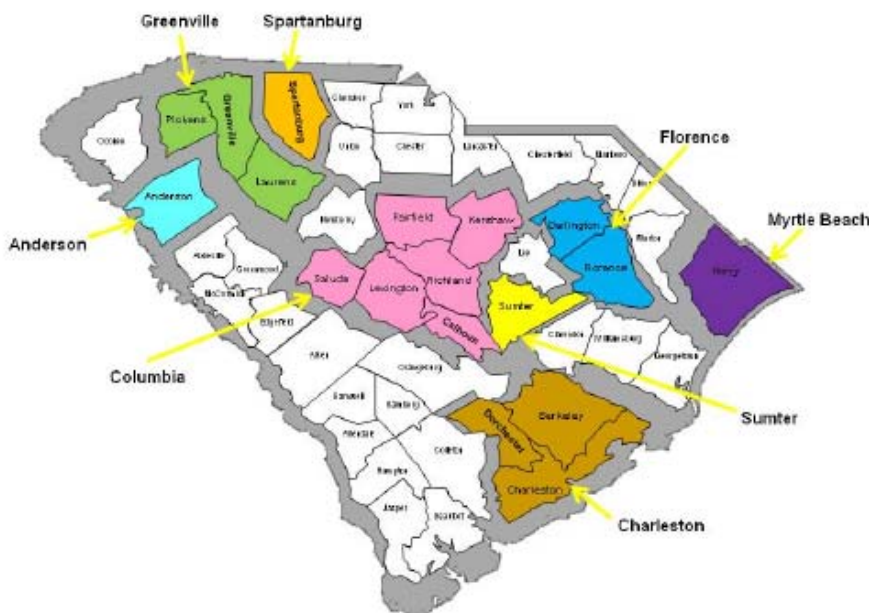
Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed	
	August 2011	August 2010		August 2011	August 2010		August 2011	August 2010
Abbeville	1,388	1,459	Darlington	4,219	4,134	Lee	1,210	1,196
Aiken	6,849	6,717	Dillon	2,157	2,223	Lexington	11,515	11,196
Allendale	653	642	Dorchester	5,994	6,234	Marion	2,524	2,583
Anderson	8,991	9,511	Edgefield	1,216	1,116	Marlboro	2,089	2,394
Bamberg	1,082	1,054	Fairfield	1,325	1,477	McCormick	505	526
Barnwell	1,444	1,574	Florence	7,266	7,168	Newberry	2,024	2,080
Beaufort	6,197	5,882	Georgetown	3,376	3,562	Oconee	3,373	3,641
Berkeley	8,393	8,618	Greenville	20,451	21,297	Orangeburg	6,721	6,556
Calhoun	962	798	Greenwood	3,797	3,784	Pickens	5,708	6,093
Charleston	16,969	16,926	Hampton	1,167	1,128	Richland	18,649	18,736
Cherokee	3,501	3,665	Horry	14,338	14,397	Saluda	878	832
Chester	2,461	2,710	Jasper	1,049	1,053	Spartanburg	15,237	15,896
Chesterfield	2,609	2,987	Kershaw	3,069	3,243	Sumter	5,540	5,532
Clarendon	2,058	1,944	Lancaster	4,591	5,100	Union	1,978	2,099
Colleton	2,457	2,287	Laurens	3,592	3,818	Williamsburg	2,302	2,299
						York	15,231	18,929

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) August 2011



Catawba WIA	14.1%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	9.0%
www.greenvillewib.com	
Lowcountry WIA	10.7%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	12.4%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	9.6%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	13.7%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynches WIA	12.1%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	9.6%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	11.6%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	12.2%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	10.5%
www.wrcog.org	
Worklink WIA	10.3%
www.worklinkweb.com	

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) August 2011



Anderson MSA	10.4%
Charleston - North	
Charleston - Summerville MSA	9.6%
Columbia MSA	9.8%
Florence MSA	11.9%
Greenville MSA	9.4%
Myrtle Beach - North Myrtle Beach - Conway MSA	10.0%
Spartanburg MSA	11.3%
Sumter MSA	11.8%